

Message Text

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43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ACDE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 AECE-00 /079 W

----- 075457

O R 041234Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6617

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SALT, MBFR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE RE CHANGE IN U.S.

ATOMIC STRATEGY

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND HIS PARTY DEPART FOR WASHINGTON TODAY PROBABLY CARRYING WITH THEM THE DECEMBER 4 EDITION OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) WHOSE LEAD NEWS ARTICLE CONCERNS A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN U.S. ATOMIC STRATEGY. THE AUTHOR, FAZ WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT JAN REIFENBERG, APPEARS TO HAVE DRAWN SOME ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS, AND THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS PARTY MIGHT BE MISLED. WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CORRECT ANY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE ARTICLE WHILE THE PARTY IS IN WASHINGTON.

2. THE FIRST THREE PARAGRAPHS OF THE ARTICLE DRAW A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BROOKINGS INSTITUTION STUDY BY JEFFREY RECORD ON THE NEED FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCTION OF U.S. TACTICAL ATOMIC ..WARHEADS IN EUROPE FROM

7,000 TO 2,000 AND THE PRESIDENT'S DEC. 2 PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING SALT. REIFENBERG POINTS OUT THAT BROOKINGS HAS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE PENTAGON AND REPRESENTS MANY OF THE OPINIONS WHICH ARE SHARED BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER. HE THEN SAYS: "ACCORDING TO THE THESES OF THE EXPERTS, THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL ATOMIC WEAPONS IN EUROPE AS WELL AS THEIR TARGETS SHOULD BE CHANGED." THIS WOULD PREVENT A PREMATURE NUCLEAR RESPONSE AGAINST AN OPPONENT AND WOULD ALSO GIVE GREATER CREDIBILITY TO SCHLESINGER'S STRATEGIC CONCEPTION OF "SELECTIVE TARGETING."

3. REIFENBERG THEN INDICATES THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION STUDY WERE MADE PUBLIC SHORTLY AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON SALT. HE STATES FURTHER THAT "... POLITICAL OBSERVERS DO NOT DOUBT THAT THE IDEAS ABOUT A REDUCTION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE AND THE EFFORTS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO CHECK THE ARMS COMPETITION OF THE SUPER-POWERS ARE AN EXPRESSION OF THE SAME STRATEGY." AT NO POINT IN THE ARTICLE DOES REIFENBERG MENTION THE ONGOING STUDY IN THE PENTAGON CONCERNING THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR STOCKPILE IN EUROPE REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT.

4. THE THIRD PARAGRAPH DEVOTED TO CONNECTING THESE TWO EVENTS READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE TIMELY COINCIDENCE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION STUDY WITH THE DECLARATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IS THEREFORE NO ACCIDENT. THE PRICE WHICH THE UNITED STATES PAYS FOR THE SOVIET CONCESSIONS IN VLADIVOSTOK, I.E., NOT TO COUNT THE AMERICAN AIR FORCE UNITS IN EUROPE AS PART OF THE STRATEGIC ARSENALS OF THE SUPER-POWERS, APPEARS TO BE CLEARER NOW: THE AMERICANS OBTAINED THE SOVIET CONCESSION FOR THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO AGREE TO A REDUCTION OF FBS FORCES."

5. THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTICLE IS A FAIRLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUCLEAR ACCORDS AGREED TO IN VLADIVOSTOK.
CASH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, PRESS COMMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN18703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740351-0686
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741262/aaaacbgg.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE RE CHANGE IN U.S. ATOMIC STRATEGY
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005